

# THE COMMONWEALTH

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TWICE-A-WEEK

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READ IT FIRST IN THIS PAPER

NUMBER 57.

## ALL IS READY FOR THE GREAT RAILWAY STRIKE

### THE STRIKE ORDER, FIXING DATE FOR LABOR DAY.

Sirs and Brothers: This is to advise that the vote of the employes in train and engine service on the eight-hour-day and time and a half for overtime proposition was overwhelmingly in favor of a strike.

Notwithstanding this, your representatives have been unable to effect a satisfactory settlement and a strike under the laws of the respective organizations becomes effective on Sept. 4, 1916, at 7 a. m.

Impart this information to those interested will understand that they are to promptly obey.

Washington, Aug. 28.—President Wilson tonight definitely decided to go before Congress in person tomorrow or Wednesday to recommend legislation aimed to avert the threatened nationwide railroad strike, or to stop it, if it came before Congress can act. He worked until late tonight on his message, in which he will tell members of the Senate and House of the negotiations to date and lay before them a definite legislative program.

**Decides After Conference**  
The President reached this conclusion after conferences at the White House with the committee of eight railroad presidents and the four brotherhood heads on a new proposal for settlement of differences suggested by the executives, and after a prolonged discussion of the situation at the capitol with the members of the Democratic steering committee of the Senate.

The proposition of the railroad executives was that an investigation of all issues be conducted by a commission to be named by the President the investigation to last for a period of three or four months no action to be taken by either side in the meantime and at the conclusion of the inquiry the situation to be what it now is, the employes having the choice of either arbitration or striking. The brotherhood heads promised a reply tomorrow morning and there was every indication it would be unfavorable.

**Asks Stop of Strike Order.**  
When the railroad brotherhood heads went to the White House tonight the president not only laid before them the plan of the executives but strongly urged the withdrawal of a tentative strike order sent out yesterday subject to release, calling for a walk-out of 400,000 brotherhood members at 7 a. m. Labor Day, September 4. This request was flatly refused, the leaders saying only the committee of 640 which left Washington yesterday had power to recall the order.

Copies of the strike order were brought to the President's attention after they had gotten into the possession of the railroad executives. It had been known that the members of the committee of 640 carried home with them a tentative order, but no one outside of the brotherhood councils had suspected that a date had been set and the President is said to have been greatly perturbed by the information. After the refusal to withdraw the order he communicated with the railroad presidents who had been present.

In spite of the apparent final failure of his efforts to bring the two sides together the president was represented tonight as being still hopeful of a strike.

**To Prevent Strike At Any Cost.**  
Although on the surface a nationwide railroad strike was nearer tonight than it has ever been, confidence was expressed in official quarters that the steps under contemplation would have the effect of preventing the walk-out. The President realizing the disaster which would come to the country if the railroads tied up, was said to be determined to prevent a strike at any cost. In his conferences with the executives he strongly urged that they change their hitherto unyielding attitude and when he saw the employes he declared that all suggestion from the executives should be given most careful consideration. Final arrangements for the appearance of the President before Congress were not completed tonight but he discussed the question fully with the Democratic steering committee of the Senate and they agreed with him that he should address a joint session. The time of his appearance depends

We have received notice from the Agricultural and Mechanical College at Raleigh that this county is entitled to one scholarship amounting to free tuition for four years. This is an opportunity for some smart, ambitious boy. Particulars can be had by writing to the College.

## LATEST PHOTOGRAPH OF PRESIDENT WILSON



### CONGRESS MAY NOT BE ABLE TO QUIT.

#### Threatened Railroad Strike Has Made Time of Adjournment Uncertain.

Washington, August 27.—Plans for adjournment of Congress next Friday are not maturing as rapidly nor as certainly as majority leaders co-operating with minority chieftains had contemplated. The crises in the railroad situation is the principal obstacle encountered at the eleventh hour, and no one tonight would predict what might happen or when the long and arduous session would end.

Well-laid plans for adjournment at the end of the week were in progress yesterday when President Wilson's visit to the capitol to talk over plans for legislation which the threatened railroad strike might demand, disturbed all calculations.

The Senate has begun the final drive on the emergency revenue bill and will continue consideration of amendments who are opposed to various features of the bill proposing amendments. Senator Underwood will make another protest against the proposed increase tariff on dyestuffs. Senator Phelan of California, wants amendment to the wine tax and Senator Overman, of North Carolina, will lead a revolt against the proposal to tax manufacturers of all materials entering into munitions of war five percent on their net profits. He will propose to exempt all agricultural products from this tax, his amendment being designed to prevent taxation of cotton which enters into explosives.

When amendments have been disposed of the Senate will lay aside the revenue bill long enough to pass the general deficiency appropriation bill as soon as it comes from the House Tuesday or Wednesday. With the last of the appropriations out of the way and conference reports completed Administration leaders hope to pass the revenue bill; to defeat motion that will be made to take up the corrupt practices and immigration bills and then to adjourn. Senator Owen will struggle to end for action on corrupt practices and Senator Smith of South Carolina threatens to call up immigration again.

So far as known tonight the only legislation that may be pressed affecting the railroad situation is the bill to enlarge the Interstate Commerce Commission from seven to nine members.

House leaders are going ahead with the completion of their program. With a quorum of members in town the House will meet Tuesday and act on the deficiency appropriation bill. It will follow this with action on the amended shipping bill which has been held up because of the lack of a quorum. Then it will await the Senate revenue bill amendments and whatever the railroad amendments may have in store. All thought for passing a joint resolution for adjourn-

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## RUMANIA JOINS ENTENTE; ITALY TELLS GERMANY

Paris, Aug. 28, 11:10 a. m.—Rumania declared war against Austria-Hungary last night, says a Havas despatch from Berne, Switzerland, which declares that the Wolff Agency at Berlin made the official announcement.

The decision to enter the war was reached at a meeting of the crown council held at Bucharest yesterday from Geneva.

### RUMANIANS IN FIRST CLASH WITH TEUTONS.

Berlin, Aug. 28, via London.—Fighting has begun between Rumanian and Teutonic troops on the Transylvania frontier, the official announcement of today indicates. The statement says Rumanians have been taken prisoners.

London, Aug. 28, 2:47 p. m.—Germany probably will declare war on Rumania within 24 hours, after which Turkey and Bulgaria are expected to do likewise, according to a despatch from the Hague to the Exchange Telegraph Company.

The despatch from the Hague says the German federal council met this morning on receipt of the news of Rumania's declaration of war against Austria.

### RUMANIAN LEGATION GUARDED

The Rumanian legation in Berlin is being guarded by the police, these advisers say, as stones were thrown through the windows of the Italian embassy in Berlin yesterday.

A later message from the same source says word has been received from Berlin that the German government will hand his passports to the Rumanian minister today.

### RUMANIAN DECLARATION OF WAR FORMALLY PRESENTED.

Amsterdam, Aug. 28, via London.—The note declaring that Rumania from 8 o'clock Sunday evening considered itself in a state of war with Austria-Hungary was presented to the Austro-Hungarian foreign minister last night by the Rumanian minister at Vienna, who personally visited the ministry of foreign affairs, according to a despatch received here today from the Austrian capital.

### GERMANY AND ITALY FORMALLY AT WAR.

Rome, August 28.—Germany and Italy are at last at war. Italy has ended the anomalous situation that has existed for months by declaring that from today she considers herself the enemy of her former ally.

### ITALY'S ACTION DECLARED AN EMPTY GESTURE.

Berlin, August 28, 4 a. m., via London.—Virtually all the morning papers with the notable exception of the Vorwaerts comment on Italy's declaration of war against Germany.

The Deutsche Tages Zeitung declares that interest in such a declaration always has been exceptionally small in Germany and now, without question, will continue so.

The Morgenpost calls Italy's action an empty gesture intended to appear heroic but actually tragic-comical and to be received with a different shrug of the shoulders.

The Kreuz Zeitung says "Italy finally has given way to the pressure of its master."

### ITALY'S DECLARATION OF WAR A SURPRISE

Although Italy's declaration of war against Germany was absolutely unheralded and came as a complete surprise, it failed to cause the slightest ripple of excitement in Berlin. The announcement was made public yesterday afternoon in the customary extra editions of the Sunday newspapers, which gave the official war reports. Ill-crowds read the declaration undemonstratively.

The official Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung sounds the keynote of press comment, taking the position that Italy's formal declaration of war will have but little effect in view of existing conditions.

### HOPED RUMANIA WOULD REMAIN NEUTRAL

All the editorial were written prior to the receipt of information regarding Rumania's declaration of war on Austria-Hungary, and almost without exception the newspapers expressed the hope that Italy's action would not force into the conflict.

The Tageblatt says: "We have waited for this declaration of war without impatience or unrest, with the same apathy with which one awaits a thunderstorm that is visible in the sky. Our umbrella has long been raised. In Italy the declaration may be regarded as a great deed, and may be accompanied with the usual demonstration. In Germany it leaves the public ice cold."

### SAYS ITALY IS NO LONGER INDEPENDENT

The Lokal Anzeiger says the declara-

## GRADED SCHOOL WILL OPEN ON SEPTEMBER 14

The 1916-1917 term of the Scotland Neck graded schools will commence Thursday morning, September 14, at 9:00 o'clock. This announcement was made yesterday by Mr. J. L. Josey, chairman of the school board, who said the new superintendent, Mr. R. D. Jenkins of China Grove, N. C., was expected most any day.

This term is expected to eclipse all former sessions of the local school in regards to attendance and work accomplished. No pains have been spared to secure the best teaching talent possible, and it is doubtful if there is a town anywhere in this section which can show as many teachers as the enrollment. The following persons compose the teachers:

First Grade—Miss Elinor Smith of Scotland Neck.

Second Grade—Miss Ella Mae Miller of Wilkesboro.

Third Grade—Miss Louise Josey of Scotland Neck.

Fourth Grade—Miss Eva Moore of Scotland Neck.

Fifth Grade—Miss Lois Thompson of McDonald.

Sixth Grade—Miss Mary White of Scotland Neck.

Seventh Grade—Miss Helen Hilliard of Scotland Neck.

Eighth Grade—Miss Julia Bryant of Rocky Mount.

Ninth Grade—Miss Virginia Leggett of Scotland Neck.

Tenth and Eleventh Grades—Miss Ethel Thomas of Lenoir.

Miss Thomas is principal of the school again this year. — and the two last named ladies will have work in the tenth and eleventh grades.

Parents are urged to have their children at the school house on Thursday morning, so that they may be properly assigned and get a list of the books required. Actual work will begin on the following Monday.

tion is not a voluntary act but a sign to the world that Italy stands no longer as an independent power, but rather as a vassal of her stronger allies.

The view that Italy's action is not entirely voluntary is expressed also by the Vossische Zeitung, which characterizes Italy as a tool of the entente powers. This newspaper expresses the hope Rumania will regard Italy as a horrible example, not to be followed.

### IS FOURTEENTH NATION TO JOIN IN WAR.

Bucharest despatches received yesterday stated that King Ferdinand of Rumania had convened a conference of representatives of all the political parties, former premiers, former presidents of the legislative chambers, ministers and government representatives, with the idea of ascertaining the views of all sections of public opinion.

Rumania becomes the fourteenth nation to join in the war. Her intervention either on the side of the allies or the central powers has been awaited with symptoms of concern by both since the beginning of the great conflict.

### NEW GATEWAY FOR RUSSIA

This is due not entirely to Rumania's military strength but also to the strategic advantage of her geographic position and the fact that her entry into the struggle opens to the Russian army a gateway through Rumania to attack the Bulgarians from the north, while the allied army having its base at Saloniki attacks them and their German allies from the south. Nevertheless, Rumania's military strength is by no means inconsiderable. The country has a population of 6,800,000 and her army has been estimated at 580,000. It often has been described as one of the most thoroughly equipped and disciplined armies in Europe, but recent information from Bucharest has thrown some doubt upon its quality. Lately it has been stated that Rumanian officers are ill-trained and undisciplined, that Rumania has no heavy artillery and that its flying service is inferior. Some advocates of Rumania's participation in the war have asserted that she could mobilize as many as one million men. The mobilization of her army has been in progress for months and a few days ago was reported to be complete.

### RUMANIA'S MOTIVE.

The motive which prompts Rumania to enter the war is the satisfaction of her "national aspirations," described by Take Joneacu, the Rumanian liberal leader as the "policy of national instinct." Concisely, this means national expansion. In the southern half of Bukowina the Austrian crown land, the Rumanians are the dominant race. The mass of the people of Eastern Transylvania, a part of Hungary, is Rumanian by race and language. It is said 4,000,000 Rumanians live in Transylvania. Rumania has been credited with a long cherished ambition to annex these provinces and at the same time "liberate" the Rumanians now under Austrian domination. Recently it was reported Russia had offered Czernowitz to Rumania as a reward if she would unite with the entente.

## MACEDONIAN CAMPAIGN NOW HOLDS ATTENTION

### Bulgarians Are Exceedingly Active, But Berlin and Paris Disagree as to Results.

Germany and Italy are at last at war. Italy has ended the anomalous situation that has existed for months by declaring that from Monday she considers herself the enemy of her former ally.

Heavy fighting continues between her entente and Teutonic allies in the Macedonian theater from the region of Lake Ochrida eastward to Katlon in the Aegean, but with results beclouded by diverging statements of Berlin and Paris.

Berlin reports that Bulgarian forces operating to the west of Lake Ochrida have captured Malik in Albania, and that along the Struma King Ferdinand's men are approaching the mouth of the river. Paris admits the Bulgarians have taken all except one of the forts at Kavala, on the Aegean, but says the newly acquired positions have come under the fire of British warships. Paris says also that along the Struma French artillery is bombarding the enemy, while west of the Vardar and near Lake Ostrovo the Serbs have put down vigorous attacks by the Bulgarians.

Despite bad weather there has been considerable fighting and a renewal of mine warfare along the British front in France. London reports the capture of 200 yards of a German trench Saturday night north of Bazentin-le-Petit and a further gain northwest of Ginchy. Berlin says that British attacks Saturday south of Thiepval, northwest of Pozieres and north of Bazentin-le-Petit, were without success.

Paris records only the pulse of German attacks along the line held by the French. These attacks were especially violent in the Vaux-Chapitre wood of the Verdun sector, in Loraine and in the Apremont forest.

The Russians, for sometime inactive in the Riga region, again has started an offensive. However, their efforts to cross the Dvina river southeast of Riga and also near Friedriehstadt failed, according to Berlin. On the remainder of the Russian front no important fighting has been reported. In the Carpathians Petrograd chronicles a fresh advance at Koverla near the Hungarian border.

In the Caucasus region Petrograd reports a Russian success over the Turks along the Masladarasi river. Hard fighting is in progress near Diarbekr, between the Russians and Ottomans.

Infantry fighting on the Isonzo front is at a standstill but the Austrians are heavily bombarding Italian positions along the river and at Vallone. In the Carnic Alps the Italians have taken several Austrian positions and on the Trentino front the Austrians are vigorously shelling the Italians.

### BANDITS CAPTURE TOWN.

Chihuahua City, Mex., Aug. 27.—300 Villa bandits captured in the town of Satevo, Chihuahua, 50 miles south of here on Friday, according to reports to General Jacinto Trevino today. The outlaws, under Uribe Aranga and Martin Lopez, surrounded the town and after six hours' battle, the garrison numbering 200, under General Be La Fuente, being without ammunition was forced to evacuate. Villa, himself was not with the outlaws, it was said.

A second engagement with Villistas was reported by General Apolinario Trevino from Torreón. He said that 20 bandits of the leader Ferniaz attacked a small detachment of Caranzistas in the Laguna district, but were driven off, their leader and six men being killed after three hours of fighting. Letters from Villa under a recent date were found in Ferniaz's pockets, it was reported.

### TWO MEN MEET DEATH IN AUTOMOBILE RACE

Eight Others Were Injured, One of Them Fatally.

Kalamazoo, Michigan, Aug. 27.—Two men were killed and eight others injured, one of them fatally, when 11 or 14 automobiles piled up at the first turn during the 100 mile race at Recreation Park here this afternoon.

The dead: Marion Arnold: machanician, Chicago, decapitated; Jack Peacock, driver, Brooklyn, both hips broken and head crushed, died in hospital.

The accident occurred when Peacock's car, leading in the race, skidded and struck the fence at the first turn. It was overturned and thrown squarely across the track. Before the track attendants could signal the other drivers, ten of the machines, going at a terrific clip, ploughed into the overturned car. Five of them were completely demolished.

The car driven by Andy Burt, whose mechanician, Marion Arnold, was killed, was the first to strike that of Peacock. Nine others came into the wreckage a moment later.

Today's accident is the worst that has occurred at Recreation Park since 1911, when Lee Oldfield's racing car ploughed through the fence and killed eight persons.

## CORRESPONDENCE LETTER FROM THE CAPITAL OF STATE

(Special Correspondence.)

Raleigh, N. C., August 29.—A number of Raleigh people, and many from several other counties, made the trip to Asheboro Saturday to attend what was popularly regarded as the "formal opening" of the State campaign by the Democrats. From the reports which they bring back, it is made evident that they were glad to have been there, and expressions are abundant in praise of the speech of our next governor.

Asheboro being the home town of State Auditor Wood, he was on hand to aid and enjoy the occasion. There is "quite a sprinkling" of the political enemy in Randolph and vicinity, and some of them heard the speeches. These Republicans were the only persons present who failed to "enjoy the meeting." Mr. Bickett's compelling eloquence drove the truths home into their unwilling minds with such force that some of them experienced a very uncomfortable hour or so.

Any one familiar with Cant. Morrison's qualities as a campaigner knows in advance that neither of the Republican electors-at-large will mount the same platform with him—if he can avoid it. And as Mr. Sinclair has the reputation of being something of a "hammer" also, one needn't expect much "joint debate" in North Carolina this year. Republican candidates are afraid of it, and many Democrats see no good results that could follow. If the Republicans had the material to meet the Democrats on even terms, they might ask for joint speaking dates for the purpose of getting the crowds to hear them.

### EVERY NEW VOTER SHOULD READ IT

At State headquarters here Chairman Warren is having the new Democratic Handbook mailed to the various counties this week. It has just been completed by the printers, and is "some book" of 230 pages.

It opens with the Democratic State Platform, and Senator Simmons' fine address as Chairman of the Democratic State Convention. April 27th, at Raleigh, and from cover to cover is filled with excellent material. A strong chapter, under the caption of "Let Us Forget," draws the deadly parallel on the records of the two parties in North Carolina, including the Republican-Populist "fusion" regime that, under the leadership of Marion Butler, grew to be as bad and odious as that of the carpet-baggers during the "reconstruction" era. It's all there in black and white, and every young man in North Carolina who is to cast his first ballot this year should read it. The chapter that follows, "Sixteen Years of Democratic Administration," will rivet the conviction in his mind that he cannot afford to help a making a change, with the present outlook before him offering nothing better than the fusion record—under the same leadership of the most thoroughly discredited public man of the present generation.

Bickett Appointments.—September 4, at Shelby; September 5, at Lillington; September 9, at Albermarle, Stanly County.

Morrison Appointments.—August 30, at Payetteville; August 31, at Saint Pauls.

Sinclair Appointments.—Surry County, at Dodson Monday, September 4th; Forsyth County Tuesday, September 5th; Guilford County Wednesday, September 6th; Rockingham County Thursday, September 7th; Alamance County Friday, September 8th; Davidson County Saturday, September 9th; Rowan County Monday, September 11th; Cabarrus County Tuesday, September 12; Randolph County Wednesday, September 13th; Montgomery County Thursday, September 14th; Moore County Friday, September 15th; Chatham County Saturday, September 16th.

The Democratic county chairmen of the above-named counties will arrange the place for the speaking on the dates named in their respective counties.

### WILSON AND THE WAGE EARNERS.

At this writing it appears that the "working men" have not misplaced their confidence by again seeking the aid of Woodrow Wilson in the attempt to secure some practical results without precipitating a great railroad strike that would paralyze traffic and business from Atlantic to Pacific oceans. With the eight-hour day for railway employees secured, after so long and hard a contention covering many years, the "brotherhoods" could afford to submit to some concessions. The railway employees are finding the President the safest engineer they ever traveled behind, and through his initiative Congress is expected to enact needed legislation on the subject to cover future disputes especially. Moral: Be sure to retain a Democratic Congress in November.

### WILSON AND BICKETT CLUBS

The time is now reasonable and propitious for the organization of Wilson (Continued on Page Four)